Numb. 138

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Secretoſq; Pios, his dantem Jura Catonem. Virg.

From *Thurſday February* 23. to *Saturday February* 25. 1709.

Sheer-Lane, February 24.

IT is an Argument of a clear and worthy Spirit in a Man to be able to diſengage himſelf from the Opinions of others, ſo far as not to let the Deference due to the Senſe of Mankind inſnare him to act againſt the Dictates of his own Reaſon. But the Generality of the World are ſo far from walking by any ſuch Maxim, that it is almoſt a ſtanding Rule to do as others do, or be ridiculous. I have heard my old Friend Mr. *Hart* ſpeak it as an Obſervation among the Players, That it is impoſſible to act with Grace, except the Actor has forgot that he is before an Audience. Till he has arrived at that, his Motion, his Air, his every Step and Geſture, has ſomething in them which diſcovers he is under a Reſtraint for Fear of being ill received; or if he conſiders himſelf as in the Preſence of thoſe who approve his Behaviour, you ſee an Affectation of that Pleaſure run through his whole Carriage. It is as common in Life, as upon the Stage, to behold a Man in the moſt indifferent Action betray a Senſe he has of doing what he is about gracefully. Some have ſuch an immoderate Reliſh for Applauſe, that they expect it for Things, which in themſelves are ſo frivolous, that it is impoſſible, without this Affectation, to make them appear worthy either of Blame or Praiſe. There is *Will Glare*, ſo paſſionately intent upon being admired, that when you ſee him in publick Places, every Muſcle of his Face diſcovers his Thoughts are fixed upon the Conſideration of what Figure he makes. He will often fall into a muſing Poſture to attract Obſervation, and is then obtruding himſelf upon the Company when he pretends to be withdrawn from it. Such little Arts are the certain and infallible Tokens of a ſuperficial Mind, as the avoiding Obſervation is the Sign of a great and ſublime one. It is therefore extremely difficult for a Man to judge even of his own Actions, without forming to himſelf an Idea of what he ſhould act, were it in his Power to execute all his Deſires without the Obſervation of the reſt of the World. There is an Allegorical Fable in *Plato*, which ſeems to admoniſh us, That we are very little acquainted with our ſelves, while we know our Actions are to paſs the Cenſures of others; but had we the Power to accompliſh all our Wiſhes unobſerved, we ſhould then eaſily inform our ſelves how far we are poſſeſſed of Real and Intrinſick Virtue. The Fable I was going to mention, is that of *Gyges*, who is ſaid to have had an inchanted Ring, which had in it a miraculous Quality, making him who wore it viſible or inviſible, as he turned it to or from his Body. The Uſe *Gyges* made of his occaſional Inviſibility, was, by the Advantage of it, to violate a Queen, and murder a King. *Tully* takes Notice of this Allegory, and ſays very handſomly, That a Man of Honour who had ſuch a Ring, would act juſt in the ſame Manner as he would do without it. It is indeed no ſmall Pitch of Virtue under the Temptation of Impunity, and the Hopes of accompliſhing all a Man's Deſires, not to tranſgreſs the Rules of Juſtice and Virtue; but this is rather not being an ill Man, than being poſitively a good one; and it ſeems wonderful, that ſo great a Soul as that of *Tully*, ſhould not form to himſelf a Thouſand worthy Actions which a virtuous Mind would be prompted to by the Poſſeſſion of ſuch a Secret. There are certainly ſome Part of Mankind who are Guardian Beings to the other. *Saluſt* could ſay of *Cato*, *That he had rather be than appear good*; but indeed this Eulogium roſe no higher than (as I juſt now hinted) to an Inoffenſiveneſs, rather than an active Virtue. Had it occurred to the noble Orator to repreſent, in his Language, the glorious Pleaſures of a Man ſecretly employed in Beneficence and Generoſity, it would certainly have made a more charming Page than any he has now left behind him. How might a Man, furniſhed with *Gyges*'s Secret, employ it in bringing together diſtant Friends, laying Snares for creating Goodwill in the room of groundleſs Hatred; in removing the Pangs of an unjuſt Jealouſy, the Shyneſs of an imperfect Reconciliation, and the Tremor of an awful Love? Such a one could give Confidence to baſhful Merit, and Confuſion to over-bearing Impudence.

Certain it is, That ſecret Kindneſſes done to Mankind, are as beautiful as ſecret Injuries are deteſtable. To be inviſibly good, is as Godlike, as to be inviſibly ill, Diabolical. As degenerate as we are apt to ſay the Age we live in is, there are ſtill amongſt us Men of illuſtrious Minds, who enjoy all the Pleaſures of good Actions, except that of being commended for them. There happens among others very worthy Inſtances of a publick Spirit, one of which I am obliged to diſcover, becauſe I know not otherwiſe how to obey the Commands of the Benefactor. A Citizen of *London* has given Directions to Mr. *Raker*, the Writing-Maſter of *Paul*'s School, to educate at his Charge Ten Boys (who ſhall be nominated by me) in Writing and Accompts, till they ſhall be fit for any Trade. I deſire

ſire, therefore ſuch as know any proper Objects for receiving this Bounty, to give Notice thereof to Mr. *Morphew*, or Mr. *Lillie*, and they ſhall, if properly qualified, have Inſtructions accordingly.

Actions of this Kind have in them ſomething ſo tranſcendent, that it is an Injury to applaud them, and a Diminution of that Merit which conſiſts in ſhunning our Approbation. We ſhall therefore leave them to enjoy that glorious Obſcurity, and ſilently admire thir Virtue, who can contemn the moſt delicious of Human Pleaſures, that of receiving due Praiſe. Such Celeſtial Diſpoſitions very juſtly ſuſpend the Diſcovery of their Benefactions, till they come where their Actions cannot be miſinterpreted, and receive their firſt Congratulations in the Company of Angels.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Whereas Mr. Bickerſtaff, *by a Letter bearing Date this 24th of* February, *has received Information, That there are in and about the* Royal-Exchange *a ſort of Perſons commonly known by the Name of* Whetters, *who drink themſelves into an intermediate State of being neither drunk or ſober before the Hours of* 'Change, *or Buſineſs, and in that Condition buy and ſell Stocks, diſcount Notes, and do many other Acts of well diſpoſed Citizens; This is to give Notice, That from this Day forward, no* Whetter *ſhall be able to give or endorſe any Note, or execute any other Point of Commerce, after the 3d half Pint, before the Hour of One: And whoever ſhall tranſact any Matter or Matters with a* Whetter, (*not being himſelf of that Order*) *ſhall be conducted to* Moorfields *upon the firſt Application of his next a-kin.*

N. B. *No Tavern near the* 'Change *ſhall deliver Wine to ſuch as drink at the Bar ſtanding, except the ſame ſhall be three Parts of the beſt Cyder; and the Maſter of the Houſe ſhall produce a Certificate of the ſame from Mr.* Tintoret, *or other credible Wine Painter.*

Whereas the Model of the intended Bedlam *is now finiſhed, and that the Edifice it ſelf will be very ſuddenly begun; it is deſired, That all ſuch as have Relations, whom they would recommend to our Care, would bring in their Proofs with all ſpeed, none being to be admitted of courſe but Lovers, who are put into an immediate* Regimen. *Young Politicians alſo are received without Fees or Examination.*

Advertiſements.

*** PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; by Subſcriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be ſeen, and Subſcriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Perſons that deſign to ſubſcribe to this Work, are deſired to ſend their Subſcriptions with all Expedition, it being intended to print no more than what ſhall be ſubſcribed for, and to begin on the 27th, in order to have it publiſh'd before Eaſter.

Men's Morning-Gowns, of rich Silks, Stuffs, Calicoes, &c. (being the Goods of a Perſon that failed) to be diſpoſed of at very low Rates; may be ſeen at the Olive-Tree and Still within three Doors of Young Man's Coffee-Houſe, againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs. The Prices being ſet on each Gown. Catalogues of the Particulars may be had at the Place of Sale.

William Weſt, Mercer, lately Partner with George Noble and William Oſwin, at the Peacock in the New Exchange, is removed to the Black-Moor's Head in that Exchange, in the ſame Walk, and Partner with Robert Sutton.

TO thoſe that are afflicted with the STONE and GRAVEL; Theſe are to certify whom it may concern, That I Anthony Moring, (who keep the Blue-Poſts Eating-Houſe juſt without Temple-Bar) having been for about Two Years very much afflicted with the Stone and Gravel, was adviſed by a Neighbour of mine, (from whom it had brought away 13 Stones) to try the Powder that is ſold by Mr. Rogers in Fleet-ſtreet, and Mr. Aylmer in Combil, Bookſellers, for that Diſtemper; which I did, and found ſuch Succeſs from the Uſe of it, that it brought away lately from me 9 Stones, 3 of which were very large, which I have by me, ready to ſhow to any one that deſires to ſee them. Since which Time, I have continued very well. Witneſs my Hand this 21ſt of Febr. 1709-10. *Anthony Moring.*

*** There is juſt publiſh'd, The Common and Statute Law of England, concerning Tryals in High-Treaſon, Miſpriſion of Treaſon, and in all other Crimes and Offences relating to the Crown: Briefly collected out of the Common and Statute Law-Books and Tryals relating to that Subject: Alphabetically digeſted under proper Titles; wherein the Learning of Appeals is at large ſet forth under the ſame Head. The whole is brought down to this Year 1710. With an exact Table. Very uſeful for all Barriſters, Attorneys, Juſtices of Peace, and for all others that have, or may have, Occaſion to be concerned in ſuch Matters. In 8vo. Printed for J. Walthoe in the Temple-Cloyſters.

*** There is juſt publiſh'd, Legal Proviſions for the Poor; or, A Treatiſe of the Common and Statute Laws concerning the Poor, either as to Relief, Settlement, or Puniſhment; Being a Methodical Guide for Juſtices of Peace, Churchwardens, and Overſeers. Wherein are explained, all the Statutes relating to that Subject; with the Ancient and Modern Law-Caſes, and Reſolutions of the Judges: And alſo many Precedents proper for ſuch a Treatiſe. In 12mo. By S. C. of the Inner-Temple, Eſq; Printed for J. Walthoe in the Middle-Temple Cloyſters.

*** Whereas Mr. Joſhua Barnes, B. D. Her Majeſty's Greek Profeſſor in the Univerſity of Cambridge, hath ſome Time ſince publiſhed Propoſals for printing a new and accurate Edition of all Homer's Works, enlarged, corrected and amended, by the Help of ancient MSS. the beſt Editions, Scholiographers, &c. Theſe are to certifie, That the Iliad and Odyſſe are now both actually printed off, only a ſmall Part of the Hymns, other Poems and Fragments, remaining, with the Indexes, Life of Homer and Prolegomina, which are carried on with all poſſible Expedition. All Gentlemen therefore, Scholars and Maſters of great Schools, that are willing to reap the Benefit of Subſcription, being 10 s. down, and on Delivery of the Two Volumes in Sheets 20 s. more, are deſired to make the firſt Payment to the ſaid Mr. Barnes, now lodging at the Printing-Houſe in Cambridge, before the End of March; after which Time no more ſingle Subſcriptions to be admitted.

*** Whereas it has been reported, That the Caſſipedia of Quilletus, tranſlated into Engliſh Verſe by ſeveral Hands, will be ſhortly publiſhed by B. Lintott; This is to give Notice, That Mr. Rowe's Tranſlation of that Book is now actually printing, and will certainly be publiſhed in Eaſter Term next, by E. Curll at the Dial and Bible againſt St. Dunſtan's Church, and E. Sanger at the Poſt-houſe in the Middle-Temple Gate; where any Gentleman may be further ſatisfied of the Forwardneſs of this Work.

*** This Day is publiſh'd, Uſeful Tranſactions for the Months of May, June, July, Auguſt and September, 1709. Containing a Voyage to the Iſland of Cajamai in America: Giving a brief Account of the natural Rarities, Inhabitants, and Diſeaſes of the Country. Together with their Cures, after the Method uſed by Jaſper Hans Van Slonenberg, a learned Member of the Royal Virtuoſi of Great Britain, in the Relation he has given of his Voyages into thoſe Parts. Tranſlated into Engliſh from the Dutch. Printed for Bernard Lintott, at the Croſs-Keys between the Two Temple-Gates in Fleetſtreet. Price 1 s.

AN Houſe on the Weſt Side of Kenſington-Square, Two Rooms upon a Floor, and Four Stories high, with large light Cloſets, Vaults, and all other Conveniencies, is to be let. Enquire as directed by the Bill upon the Door.

IN St. Martin's-Court, the upper End of St. Martin's Lane, in the Liberty of Weſtminſter, is erected an Office of Inſurance upon Marriages, by providing Portions for ſingle Perſons of both Sexes by Contribution; for the due Performance whereof, Security is ſettled in Truſtees by Advice of Council. Attendance is daily given at the ſaid Office, for 9 to 12, and from 2 till 6; where Subſcriptions are taken, and Propoſals may be had gratis; and a Liſt of the Truſtees Names may be ſeen.

RIght ſuperfine Brazil Snuff, with the beſt Colour and Flavour, is to be ſold at the Perfumer's Shop at the Gun over-againſt the Play-Houſe in the Hay-Market, as follows: Such who buy a Pound, ſhall have it for 33 s. and but half a Pound or a quarter, after the Rate of 36 s. per Pound, which is but 2 s. 3 d. per Ounce.

TUrkey Coffee, 6 s. Chocolate all Nut, 2 s. 6 d. and 3 s. with Sugar, 2 s. and 1 s. 8 d. Bohee Tea, 12 s. 16 s. 20 s. and 24 s. All Sorts of Green Tea, the loweſt 12 s. Any Perſon is free to taſt of Tea or Coffee, that wants a Quantity. The Right Spirit of Bohee Tea at 2 s. a Bottle. Sold by Robert Tate, at the Star in Bedford-court near Bedford-ſtreet, Covent-Garden.

Sold by *John Morphew* near *Stationers-Hall*; where Advertiſements are taken in.